Committee to Safeguard Employees' Interest

1916. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on 16th August, 1994, a Committee was constituted to formulate methods to safeguard employees' interest;

(b) whether the said Committee have submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the salient features of the said report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM)): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. It has been decided that the Committee may progressively implement the decisions arrived at without waiting for a formal report of the Committee. Salient decisions taken by the Committee so far are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details regarding salient decisions taken by the committee so far.

(i) Information brouchures will be published by DOT twice a year. This will give information on application for new telephone connections, shifts, additional accessories, waiting list, future plans and commercial information.

(ii) Registration for New Telephone connection will be possible from anywhere in India. Standard formats will be made available in all Customer Service Centres.

(iii) Procedure for third Party/legal transfers of telephones will be streamlined such that the necessary formalities will be got completed within 4 weeks time. The bills for the transferer will also be settled within this time.

(iv) Existing procedure will be simplified for use of Landlord's telephone by Tenant. A joint declaration from the landlord and the tenant alongwith Rs. 100 as fee will be sufficient for an agreed period.

(v) Safe custody of telephones connected to electronic exchanges will be taken up when the custody is for six months or more. Restoration of safe custody will be done within a month.

(vi) Banks will be utilised for revenue collection in addition to the existing arrangements.

(vii) More Customer Service Centres with service approach and more centralisation of customer's service function will be introduced. Technology modernisation through use of computers will be taken up in important centres for quick response to customers requirements and queries.

Euroissue of VSNL

1917. SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India is not allowing the VSNL to go ahead with its $ 600 million Euroissue plan;

(b) if so, whether the main argument for such a decision is that the VSNL is not in urgent need of funds;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it has also decided that the VSNL need not tap the domestic market for the time being on the same grounds; and

(d) if so, why the VSNL was allowed to moot and go ahead with the Euroissue in the first place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, the Government has not refused permission to VSNL to go ahead with its Euroissue plan. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Question does not arise in view of answer at 'a' above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise in view of answers at 'a' to 'c' above.

Letters Written by M.Ps.

1918. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, is not responding to the letters written by the Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of letters received by him in each of the last three years and the action taken thereon;

(d) how many of these letters are still pending alongwith the steps taken to expedite the replies thereof;

(e) the number of letters received from the subscribers during the month of

September, 1993 by the General Manager, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, South area-I; and

(f) the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. The CMD MTNL is responding to letters written by the Members of Parliament.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) No. of letters received from MPs during last three years are as under:

1992	1993	1993-94 (upto 30-11-94)
402	198	122

All the letters have been duly acknowledged. The Hon'ble MPs have also been informed of the position and measures taken on their requests/suggestions/complaints etc. except in 3 cases which are pending finalisation.

(d) Pending=3. Replies being finalised.

(e) Number of letters received by GM (South) from the subscribers during September, 1993 in MTNL Delhi and Mumbai are as under:

Delhi -- 8632

Mumbai — 364

South-I area in Delhi was not existing in September, 1993. Hence above figures have been given for combined South area of Delhi. In Bombay South-I area has not been formed and there is only South area.

(f) These letters mainly relate to complaints of faulty telephones, provisioning and billing matters. All the above letters have been attended to and necessary action has been taken.

Tender for new Telephone Lines

1919. SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will he Minister of COMMUNINCATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that multinational corporations with strong support from their domestic banks agreed to fulfil the requirements of the new lines tender of leasing/deferred payments; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the C-DOT which also entered the race were denied by the Indian Financial Institutions to provide similar backup support of fulfilling such conditions of the tender?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) In the tender for financing of telecom projects opened on 15-6-1994 only registered Indian Companies were eligible to bid. Only two large digital switch suppliers have quoted in this finacing tender, one of them being M/s. Indian Telephone Industries Ltd.

(b) Many C-DOT technology based equipment manufacturers have participated in this tender. Utilisation of financial offers based on requirements of the Department in terms of equipment and availability of funds, is being processed.

This Ministry is not aware of the negotiations between the bidders in this tender and their financiers.

Amendment to Indian Telegraph Act

1920. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 to end the current monopoly of Doordarshan and All India Radio; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Foreign Companies' Low Offer for Indian Market

1921. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AT&T accouont for 42% of its domestic market Seimens 83% for the German market and Ericsson 100% Swedish market;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the price of offering lines by AT&T in the home country in 1992 was $110, that of Alcatel $325, Fijitsu $290 and Seimens $450;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the same companies are quoting prices varying between $100 and $140 for the international market;

(d) whether it is also a fact that these companies are prepared to offer still lower prices of $80 for the Indian market;

(e) if so, whether it implies that the international operation and their possible Indian operation, is essentially subsidised by the high degree of profits in their domestic markets to allow them initial to hold for capturing the Indian market; and

(f) whether it is a fact that if their endeavour to firmly entrench themselves in